

FTR



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
825 Brook Street
I-91 Tech Center
Rocky Hill, CT. 06067
(203)-379-4850
www.acscan.org

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 18, 2016
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Testimony

SB 27 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Five years ago, the Legislature along with input from stakeholders, experts, consumers and constituents, passed one of the strongest Exchange laws in the country, PA 11-53. Connecticut's Exchange, Access Health CT, has now enrolled over 116,000 people in its third year, continuing to be among the strongest performing state exchanges in the country.

The bill before you today, **SB 27 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** is a step in the wrong direction, however, and we respectfully OPPOSE this measure.

SB 27 would add an additional voting member to the Exchange Board of Directors to be filled by a "retired" Insurance Producer. Insurance Producers are licensed professionals who sell, solicit or negotiate insurance products, including health. "Retired", as defined by the bill, is one who is not currently licensed as a producer by the Insurance Department and who has not been licensed the 12 months prior to being appointed to the Board.

We believe a balanced and independent consumer driven Exchange Board better serves the needs of those touched by cancer. We supported past efforts to increase the number of consumer and small business representatives and continue to support additional consumer input and representation.

The Board is already empowered to create advisory committees where the experience and input of the Insurance industry, including that of producers, could more appropriately serve the needs of consumers. It is in the best interest of the people of Connecticut that any potential imbalance to the Board or conflicts of interest be avoided.

Access Health CT is critical to the success of health care reform in Connecticut. In order for cancer patients and their families to feel confidence and trust in their ability to access, choose, and purchase comprehensive health insurance that meets

their needs, critical challenges related to the design, implementation and governance of Access Health, CT and all Exchanges across the country, must be met.

Access Health CT should serve as a model for the consumer-friendly marketplace that the health care law intended, providing access to adequate, affordable health care options for people with cancer or who are at risk for the disease.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer with the training and tools they need to make their voices heard.

Bryte Johnson
Government Relations Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

#####